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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/894,215

Examiner

Kenneth Tang

Applicant(s)

SACHEDINA ET AL.

Art Unit

2195

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/16/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 10; now renumbered as 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/6/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/27/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

MENG-AL T. AN
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kelvin M. Vivian (Reg. No. 53,727) on 9/27/05.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 3, 7, and 11, as well as replace claims 1, 5, and 9 as follows:

CLAIM 1

1. A computer-implemented method for providing access to a resource in a programming environment supporting concurrent tasks, comprising:

- (a) providing a latch to a first task, wherein the first task requests the latch to obtain access to the resource;
- (b) accessing the resource with the first task;
- (c) marking the latch stealable and held by a holding task, rather than releasing the latch, wherein marking the latch stealable permits a second task to acquire the latch in response to the latch being marked stealable;

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(d) marking the latch unstealable if the first task again requests the latch to obtain access to the resource prior to the latch being requested by a second task seeking access to the resource; and

(e) marking a set of flags for a latch:

- i. stealable, wherein the resource is not placed in a consistent state because the latch is marked stealable;
- ii. stolen, wherein the resource is placed in a consistent state and then accessed by the second task; or
- iii. unstealable, wherein the first task again requests the latch to obtain access to the resource and the latch has not been requested by a second task seeking access to the resource, as requested by the latch.

CANCEL CLAIM 3.

CLAIM 5

5. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing access to a resource in a programming environment supporting concurrent tasks, the program instructions for:

- (a) providing a latch to a first task, wherein the first task requests the latch to obtain access to the resource;
- (b) accessing the resource with the first task;

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(c) marking the latch stealable and held by a holding task, rather than releasing the latch, wherein marking the latch stealable permits a second task to acquire the latch in response to the latch being marked stealable;

(d) marking the latch unstealable if the first task again requests the latch to obtain access to the resource prior to the latch being requested by a second task seeking access to the resource; and

(e) marking a set of flags for a latch:

iv. stealable, wherein the resource is not placed in a consistent state because the latch is marked stealable;

v. stolen, wherein the resource is placed in a consistent state and then accessed by the second task; or

vi. unstealable, wherein the first task again requests the latch to obtain access to the resource and the latch has not been requested by a second task seeking access to the resource, as requested by the latch.

CANCEL CLAIM 7.

CLAIM 9

9. A latch mechanism for a computer programming environment supporting concurrent tasks, comprising:

means for providing a latch for a resource to a first task, whereby the first task holds the latch;

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means for the first task to mark the latch stealable and held by a holding task, rather than releasing the latch, wherein marking the latch stealable permits a second task to acquire the latch in response to the latch being marked stealable;

means for the first task to mark the latch unstealable if the first task again requests the latch to obtain access to the resource prior to the latch being requested by a second task seeking access to the latch; and

means for using a set of flags for marking a latch stealable, wherein the resource is not placed in a consistent state because the latch is marked stealable, stolen, wherein the resource is placed in a consistent state and then accessed by the second task, or unstealable, wherein the first task is again provided with the latch and the latch has not been provided to a second task seeking access to the resource.

CANCEL CLAIM 11.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Tang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3772. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 6:00PM, Every other Friday off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kt
9/27/05



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ART UNIT 2195